

SCOTT R. TIPTON
3RD DISTRICT, COLORADO
218 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-4781

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0603

FINANCIAL SERVICES
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
HOUSING, COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND INSURANCE

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Mike Pence
Vice President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump and Vice President Pence,

Thank you for the work you and your administration are doing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I welcomed the announcement yesterday that Colorado will receive supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile, as a common concern across my state and the entire country is about the need for personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators. While Colorado will receive 49,200 N95 masks; 115,000 surgical masks; 21,420 surgical gowns; 21,800 face shields; and 84 coveralls, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment estimates that these supplies are enough for only one full day of state-wide operations. The state of Colorado, and the entire country, need more PPE and medical equipment. Just as concerning is the gap between the number of ventilators available in the United States, versus the numbers we are projected to need at the height of this pandemic. For every ventilator that is needed for critical care that we do not have, a life that may otherwise have been saved will be lost. This has already happened in Italy, however, with action and investment now we may be able to lessen the impact here.

I am encouraged by today's announcement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that the Defense Production Act will be utilized to produce COVID-19 test kits and face masks, and I welcome the contributions that companies like Ford, 3M and GE are making during this crisis. I

respectfully urge you to use the full power of the federal government to ensure the U.S. supply of PPE, ventilators and needed medical equipment can fully meet the demand during this pandemic.

We have already seen Coloradans come together in extraordinary ways. Hundreds of people across my state are sewing masks that can be used for protection by first responders and individuals who are especially vulnerable to the virus. The security of our nation and our people is the foremost responsibility of the federal government, and I stand ready to work with you to make sure we uphold this duty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Tipton", with a large circular flourish above the name.

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress